

United States Department of Agriculture



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Transmitted via Email

September 13, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-63

SUBJECT: LTP – MODIFYING THE STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EQIP) CONSERVATION PRACTICE PAYMENT DOCKET AND EQIP SCORING WORKSHEET

Purpose. To request recommendations for modifying the Statewide EQIP Conservation Practice Payment Docket and the EQIP Scoring Worksheet.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

The EQIP Statewide Conservation Practice Payment Docket and the EQIP Scoring Worksheet are being reviewed for FY 2006 usage.

Field staff should submit suggestions for docket modifications and scoring worksheet changes to their NRCS Area Office by October 7, 2005. Area Offices will consolidate and submit requests to the NRCS State Office by October 13, 2005.

Docket recommendations can include deleting or adding a practice; decreasing the maximum cost-share rate; increasing maximum amount to be cost-shared when using the "Actual Maximum" (AM) payment method; or additions of special practices. Requests for increasing maximum cost-shared amounts must be accompanied by documentation justifying the change. The 2006 docket will reflect a move toward more use of Average Costs (AC) rather than Actual Maximum (AM). Changes made to the EQIP docket will also be reflected in other NRCS cost-share programs such as the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

Include suggestions generated by the local work group (LWG) in this process. It is anticipated the scoring worksheet will remain substantially as is, with local priority weighting and local factor scoring.

Requests submitted to the Area Offices should be directed to the Area Resource Conservationist with a courtesy copy to the respective Assistant State Conservationist for the Area. Submit Area summations to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist, or Sid Cornelius.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: MN - ASTC(FO), AO-ARC, ENG (A), DCs